Amendments in Sugar Development Fund

*600. SHRI RAMA MUNI REEDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to make amendments in the Sugar Development Fund;

(b) if so, the proposed amendments to be carried out;

(c) the reasons for such amendments and how they would help the industry; and

(d) whether the proposed amendments would promote production of ethanol from molasses and allow co-generation of power from bagasse?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to amend the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 in order to provide for loans to potentially viable sick sugar undertakings at concessional terms and conditions for their rehabilitation. The Government also proposes to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 so as to provide for loans from the Sugar Development Fund for bagasse based cogeneration of power by sugar undertakings. In addition, certain other aspects relating to loans for modernization and cane development are also proposed to be covered by these amendments.